

## BOOK REVIEWS

**PROGRESS IN CLINICAL MEDICINE.** By Various Authors. Edited by Raymond Daley, M.A., M.D., Camb., M.E.C.P., and Henry G. Miller, M.D. Durh., M.R.C.P., D.P.M. With 22 text-figures and 15 plates. Grune & Stratton, New York, April 29, 1948. \$6.00.

This book attempts to summarize recent progress in clinical medicine, and consists of 13 chapters by various British authors. It was of interest to the reviewer to note the contributions of British investigators. However, the emphasis on work from their own country, and consequent inattention to many significant contributions of American workers, has resulted in many instances in inadequate review of recent medical advances.

For example, the discussion of hepatitis makes no reference to the work of Cecil Watson, nor to the papers concerning inoculation in volunteers, and other related studies conducted during the war. There is an inadequate discussion of the use of penicillin in the treatment of subacute bacterial endocarditis, and of the importance of the "in vitro" sensitivity of the organism to penicillin, as well as the occasional importance of massive dosage. The whole of this subject is treated in only two pages, while the subject of peptic ulcer covers 15 pages. Here is an obvious imbalance in terms of the importance of the recent advances made in two fields. Again, only half of a page is devoted to the subject of surgery of pulmonary tenosis, despite the outstanding recent work in this problem. The chapter on renal diseases has no discussion at all of the present concepts of physiological disturbances in renal insufficiency and their rational management. Nor is any mention made of the use of streptomycin in urinary infections. The section on renal anoxia omits reference to the important fundamental work of Van Slyke and his associates, and to Lucke's significant paper. In fact, there is not a single reference in this section to American work, despite the important contributions made by investigators in this country.

Chapters which were of particular interest, however, were those on tropical medicine, by Frederick Murgatroyd, and on intestinal disorders, by F. Avery Jones.

The criticisms offered by the reviewer do not detract from the considerable amount of clinical information contained in this volume, which will benefit those seeking information on the major developments of the past decade. The emphasis on British work is understandable, and a similar fault might be found in such a composite work by American authors. This book can be read with profit by those unfamiliar with many of the important British contributions to clinical medicine in the past few years.

**A HISTORY OF THE HEART AND THE CIRCULATION.** By Fredrick A. Willius, M.D., M.S. in Med., Senior Consultant in Cardiology, Mayo Clinic; and Thomas J. Dry, M.A., M.S. in Med., Consultant, Section on Cardiology, Mayo Clinic. Illustrated. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London. \$8.00.

The authors preface their book by emphasizing the importance of the historical approach in the study of medicine. This position, undoubtedly sound, unfortunately has been too much neglected in this age when the rush of progress leaves little time for consideration of more than the exciting developments of the moment. Dr. Willius and Dr. Dry attempt to summarize the main currents of general history as they go along, but this is of course a difficult task in the amount of available space. The year 1453, for example, is mentioned as a boundary line between Mediaeval and Renaissance periods, but just what happened in that famous year is not stated. The book is well and interestingly written and is especially useful for the doctor because it summarizes events

in chronological order as well as the lives of the important figures in cardiology. The biographies are brief, vivid and usable, and the sequential presentation of data according to subjects such as anatomy of the circulation, arrhythmias, congenital malformations, etc., is a real feature.

**YOU AND YOUR DOCTOR.** By Benjamin F. Miller, M.D., Clinical Professor of Medicine, George Washington Medical School. Whittlesey House, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. 1948. \$2.75.

This is a readable and extremely clever piece of propaganda in favor of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill and similar plans.

The author paints a rosy picture of a theoretical state in which everyone would be well fed, well housed, well clothed, well educated and well cared for in a medical sense. He brusquely brushes aside Voluntary Health Insurance as of little value. His arguments will appeal to certain lay people who do not have the knowledge or perspective to evaluate them properly. If the author's plan were to be put into effect, it would require the establishment of an authoritarian state. He disregards completely the effect which this has had in other parts of the world and particularly its effect upon standards of medicine and medical care. He quotes certain statistics without adequate analysis and interpretation and on occasion uses the same argument to prove widely differing points.

It is the traditional Physician's Forum type of propaganda in new and attractive form.

**SYNOPSIS OF PEDIATRICS.** By John Zahorsky, A. B. M.D., F.A.C.P., Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the Department of Pediatrics, St. Louis University School of Medicine; assisted by T. S. Zahorsky, B.S., M.D., Senior Instructor in Pediatrics, St. Louis University School of Medicine. Fifth Edition with 158 Text illustrations and 9 Color Plates. The C. V. Mosby Company, 1948. \$5.50.

This book was first written in 1934, primarily for medical students. It had 60 chapters which corresponded with 60 didactic lectures. Because a synopsis can never go into detail which is necessary and because of the magnitude of the field of Pediatrics, it falls short of its mark as a reference book for students and says too little about too large a number of topics. In this it shares a fault common to many synopses.

A readable personal style has been maintained and the book is liberally illustrated. It has an atmosphere and flavor which might be term "old-fashioned" as is illustrated in the index, where we find rachitis, cereal decoctions, dyspepsia, and eclampsia (convulsions) listed.

While the general practitioner may discover this book meets his requirements, it would appear that in most instances recent graduates would find a larger and more complete text came closer to doing so.

**CLINICAL STUDIES IN PSYCHOPATHOLOGY—A Contribution to the Aetiology of Neurotic Illness.** By Henry V. Dicks, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., Nuffield Professor of Psychiatry in the University of Leeds. Baltimore, The Williams and Wilkins Company, 1947.

The subject matter of this book stems from a series of postgraduate lectures given at the famous Tavistock Clinic in London. The contents presupposes a certain degree of familiarity with psychiatric jargon, particularly analytically oriented psychopathologic concepts, so that the volume is essentially directed at psychiatrists and other students of psychopathology who are primarily interested in the psychoneuroses, rather than at the internist and general medical man.